

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of David Ross S7419

fn13NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/20/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber.]

State of North Carolina County of Brunswick: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions December Sessions 1832

On this the 4th day of December personally appeared in open Court before Benjamin Roswell Esquire Moses Hewitt Esquire Daniel B. Evans Esquire Justices of the Peace for the County of Brunswick holding the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for said County now sitting David Ross a resident of the County of Brunswick and State of North Carolina aged seventy-one years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered in the service of the United States under the following named Officers, and served as herein stated.

1. In the month of October 1777, as well as he can recollect, then residing in Jones County North Carolina, he entered the service as a Private in a Company of Jones County Militia, commanded by Captain Archelaus Meeks, __ Carraway Lieutenant, and __ Williams, Ensign. The Company rendezvoused at Kingston [sic, Kinston] in Lenoir County, where they joined the Jones Regiment -- & where there were several other regiments from the adjoining Counties, commanded by Colonel William Caswell a man by the name of Williams as Major of the Jones Regiment the officers of the other Regiments he does not recollect. From Kingston they marched to Bladen County, and remained 2 or 3 days at the forks of the Roads, about 2 miles below Elizabethtown -- where they were joined by worn or 2 Companies of Bladen Militia, who were called out for the same tour of service, to wit, 4 months; marched thence to Charleston, by the Western Prong, and Lumber River (crossing Little & Big Pedee) to Moncks Corner on Santee River; thence to the ten mile house near Charleston; remained there a week or ten days, and while there received a supply of arms and ammunition from Charleston; thence they marched to Dorchester on Ashley River, and after marching thence some distance, on what was called the lower roads, they turned to Golphid's Mills [sic, Galphin's Mills] on the Savannah River, thence up the same to Matthews or Silver Bluff, three miles below Augusta, and there were joined by a Regiment of North Carolina Militia from Onslow County, North Carolina, & the Counties adjoining under the command of Colonel Basel Smith. At Augusta, crossed the River, in order to make an attack on the British at that place, but they had previously retired -- pursued them on the Savannah road until they (the Americans) arrived at Brier Creek. After the Americans had been at Brier Creek about a fortnight under the command of General Ashe [John Ashe], the British crossed the Creek about eight miles above, attacked them in the rear and put them to a precipitant flight. He (the Declarant) was taken prisoner, and with two or three others were permitted to go at large, from a belief on the part of the enemy that they would join them.

He had been at large about a week when a good opportunity presented itself, he swam across the River -- and making his escape, joined the American Army at Turkey Hill, near the Two Sisters Ferry on Savannah River; at that place, the Captain commanding his company died in the Hospital. Thence they marched to Zaglers Ferry -- there fell in with the Continental Army under General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] and he (Ross) was one of fifty men of Caswell's Regiment, who were sent to Purrysburg to guard that place, after General Lincoln's Army had left it: and where they remained nine days on that duty; when their term of service (five months) expired, and they were relieved, and marched back to Black Swamp -- where the North Carolina Militia were ~~discharged~~ stationed with General Lincoln's Army and the [indecipherable word or words, looks like "mor army"] after marched to North Carolina, and were discharged on reaching Lockwood's Folly, in Brunswick County North Carolina -- Received a written discharge from Colonel William Caswell, but he lost it. Besides General Ashe already mentioned, some of the Officers in command there, were Colonel or General Bryan, Colonel Eaton, Colonel Alston and a Colonel or General Albert¹ who commanded the Artillery. General Rutherford of North Carolina was at the Twin Sister Ferry, when he Rawls arrived there -- Having been with the Continental Army but one night, he has no recollection of any of the Continental officers, except General Lincoln.

2. After they had been a skirmish at Blueforts' or the Big Bridge, on the North East River, between a body of Militia that were stationed at that place under the command of Captain William Vann [could be William Dann], and the British from Wilmington under cap major Craig, He was ordered out as a Private, then residing in Jones County in a Company of Jones County Militia commanded by Captain Risdan McDaniel, and marched to the neighborhood of Wilmington, where they remained two months, and until the interruption of the Tories at Fort Barnwell on Neuse River, when the men were permitted to return home to take care of their families. He received a written discharge from Captain McDaniel, but has lost it. On this expedition he was a volunteer -- knew no Continental officers.

3. Not long after, but he cannot fix the date of this or the preceding tour of service, He volunteered as a Private in a Company of Light Horse commanded by Captain William George and James Blackshear, against the Tories in Jones and the adjoining Counties who had been very troublesome, particularly about the head of Trent & Neuse [rivers], and near Fort Barnwell twelve miles below Kingston. The Company was ordered to hold itself in readiness to march at a moment's warning and were engaged in frequent excursions against the Tories sometimes of two or three weeks duration, and were employed at intervals in that kind of service ~~until~~ from the Fall of the Year, until the early part of the following summer, and while so employed the British marched from Wilmington to New Bern, and shortly afterwards hostilities ceased. He cannot say how long he was in service, but is confident that he must have served no more than 2 months -- He received nothing but a verbal discharge -- knew no Continental Officers -- and was then also a Resident of Jones County. He has no documentary evidence of his services, nor no living witnesses, whose attendance he can procure to prove the same.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Nath. Potter

S/ David Ross

Answers by the Applicant to the Interrogatories prescribed by the War Department as propounded to him by the court

¹ This MAY be a reference to Samuel Elbert, an officer in the Georgia Line who was at Brier Creek.

1. I was born in the State of Connecticut, September 24th 1761.
2. I have -- at my own House in a Dictionary.
3. In Jones County, about 15 miles from New Bern. I moved to the Western Country & resided there about a year returned to Onslow County North Carolina, thence removed to the Cape Fear River in Bladen County, and thence removed to Columbus^{Brunswick} County, where I now reside.
4. I was drafted first, and was a Volunteer the 2 subsequent expeditions.
5. I have fully answered this Question in the body of declaration to which I beg leave to refer.
- 6th. Received two discharges, but have lost them, as set forth in my declaration.
7. John Grisset, James Grimes, Benjamin Ivey, William Grisset, Elhelied Bozeman, Nathal. Edwards & Nathan Little.

[A. L. Stephens & Benjamin Sellers gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[certificate in the file indicates that payments were made until March 4, 1838.]